



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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Bishop Hails EPA Decision to Extend Deadline on LI Sound Dumping Plan

Comment Deadline Extended to December 15

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop today praised the Environmental Protection Agency for its decision to extend the deadline for public comment period for a proposal to dump contaminated dredge waste into Long Island Sound. The comment period was schedule to expire on November 17, however, several community groups asked Bishop to seek an extension because they did not have adequate opportunity to study the plan and comment on it. The comment period was extended until December 15.

Bishop sent a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Leavitt on November 13, urging him to extend the deadline. Bishop also requested that the EPA hold an additional public hearing on Long Island. There was only one public hearing on the plan on September 30 in Stony Brook, however, it was poorly publicized and was held before local citizens had the opportunity to understand the plan.

"I applaud the EPA's decision to give the public a full and fair opportunity to express their concerns with this project," Bishop said. "Now that the community has this additional time, I urge people to let the EPA know how they feel about this plan."

"I hope the EPA will also hold an additional public hearing on Long Island to give members of our community a forum to discuss the plan with officials," Bishop added.

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently considering a plan that would dump more than 20 million cubic yards of dredge spoil into the Sound over the next 20 years. This waste would primarily come from large dredging projects in industrial Connecticut Harbors.

Bishop has also authored legislation to protect Long Island Sound from massive dumping of contaminated dredge waste. Bishop's legislation has the support of the entire Long Island Congressional delegation.

People can send comments to the EPA via fax (617) 918-1505 or e-mail through rodney.ann@epa.gov, or mail:

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One Congress Street
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Boston, MA 02114
Attention: Ann Rodney

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